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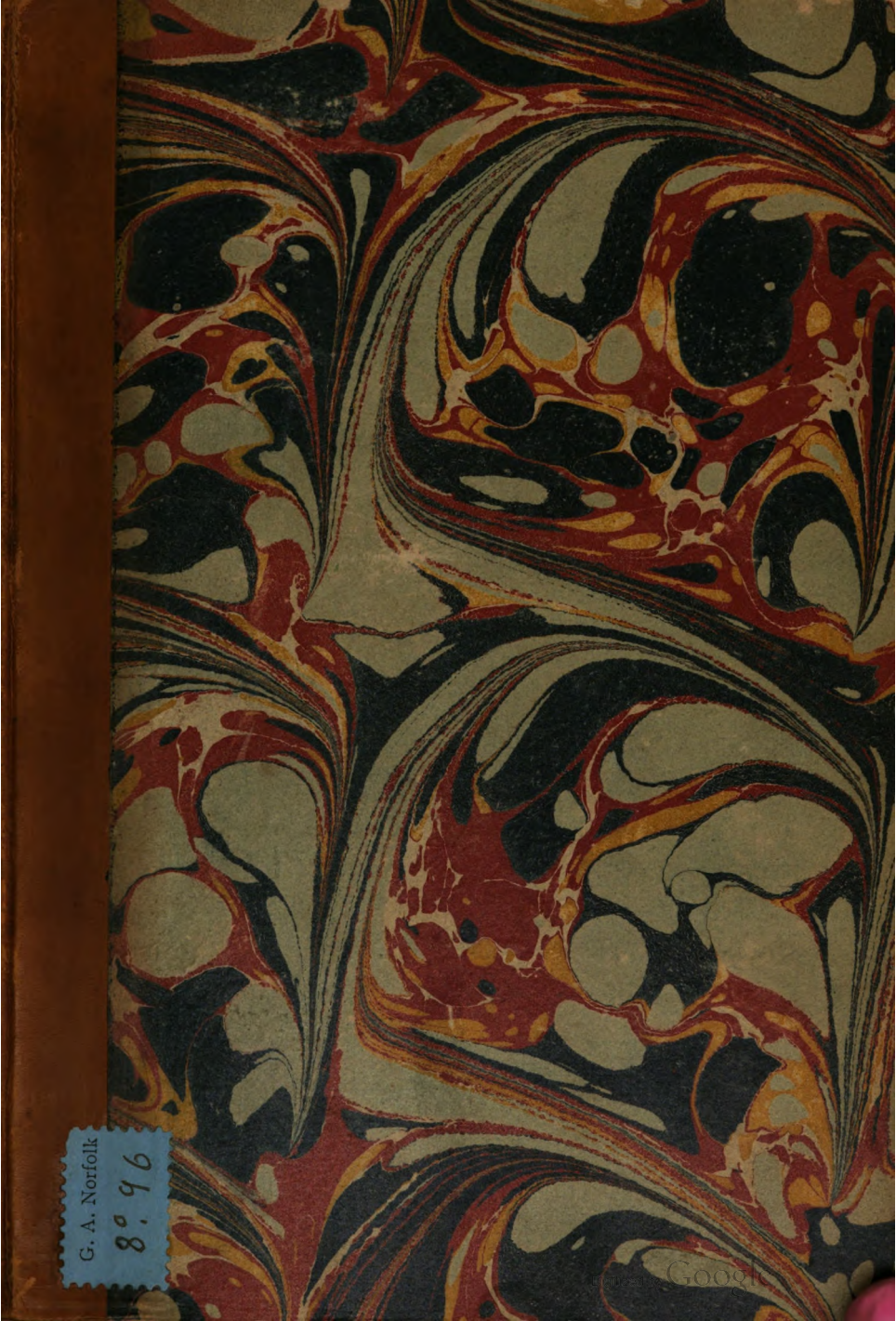
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G. A. Norfolk

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George Addis
Norfolk. 8th 96.

A
L E T T E R

T O

THOMAS WILLIAM COKE, Esq.
Of HOLKHAM.

Wherein a full ANSWER is given to his Advertisement
published in the NORFOLK CHRONICLE and NORWICH
MERCURY, MAY 2, 1778.

By RICHARD GARDINER, Esq.

Of MOUNT AMELIA.

Late Captain in the 16th Regiment of QUEEN's Light Dragoons.

*Sunt quibus in satyra videar nimis acer, et ultra
Legem tendere opus -----*

HOR.

There are, I scarce can think it, but am told,
There are, to whom my satire seems too bold :
Scarce to " Sir Harbord" complaisant enough,
And something said of " Simkin" much too rough.

POPE.

*Si quis
Opprobrijs dignum lataverit, integer ipse;
Solventur risu tabulæ, tu missus abibis.*

HOR.

In such a cause the plaintiff would be his'd,
My Lords the Judges laugh, and you're dismiss'd.

POPE.

L O N D O N :

Printed and sold by M. Folingsby, Temple-Bar: M. Booth, Norwich;
Eaton, Yarmouth; Hollingworth, Lynn, and by all the Bookfellers
in Town and Country. 1778.





L E T T E R

T O

Thomas William Coke, Esq.

S I R,

MISREPRESENTATION of facts, as it is the most mischievous, so it is the most disgraceful, of all deviations from truth. The man, who tells a downright falsehood, hazards a lie boldly, and till he is detected, triumphs in his audacity; but the man, who misrepresents a fact, by his false colouring shews he is conscious and ashamed of the meanness of the lie he is telling, and by glossing it over, confessedly tries all he can to *sneak away* from the ignominy

nominy of public and general conviction, However this, as in the case of the advertisement under examination, rarely happens: there is a force so penetrating in the ray of truth, that it pierces through all the mists of delusion, and clouds of misrepresentation that can be formed to obscure and hide it: Truth is invincible, and is a brilliant that shines invariably in genuine and unpolluted lustre,

I am sorry to say it, Sir, but your advertisement of May 2, 1778, and so often repeated afterwards, is full of this false colouring and misrepresentation, from beginning to end; and in what an unfavorable light must it make you appear to the world, when I prove from *yourself*, beyond the power of contradiction, that you was conscious of the untruth of your assertions at the time you put your name to this paper, and *knowingly* set your hand to a falsehood? But, Sir, out of regard to your father's memory, I will be as tender as I can, and spare you as much confusion as possible, consistent with my own vindication: I have also, Sir, a pity for your youth, which is visibly led astray by improper connections. Your first *traverses*

verses over the *quick-sands* of life, have been most certainly steered by very treacherous, and unskilful pilots; and unless you put your vessel on another tack, and shift your helmsman, depend upon it you will bulge and be a-ground before you are aware of your danger. I wish no ill-timed partiality, or fond opinion of your own discernment, that perhaps has fatally guided you in forming and implicitly adhering to the present band, or rather *banditti* about you, may operate too strongly against the force of any representation to save you, from the united efforts and salutary advice of men whose friendship would do you honor: men of weight in the county, solidity and judgment: men of unembarrassed fortunes, and unimpeached integrity; whose opinions carry conviction, and whose years command authority: such as these are to be found, Sir, and let me recommend to you to make the search in time.

But to come to your advertisement, the main object of this publication; and which, if the known *agent* employed by you and Sir Harbord had not interposed and intimidated the printers of the *Norwich Papers*,

pers, would have been answered by an advertisement likewise ; I should not otherwise have given myself the trouble of composing, nor the public of reading, the following uninteresting pages.

I published my letter to Sir Harbord Harbord on Saturday, March 21, 1778. The facts contained in that letter are uncontroverted to this hour. I am told that you have occasionally admitted the truth of those *within your knowledge* and experience ; at least common report says so : the facts alluded to *beyond your knowledge*, the public is the judge of ; and as no contradictory answer has been given to them, it may not unfairly be concluded that they are true also.

A second edition of my letter to Sir Harbord came out in ten days after the first : this too remained uncontroverted ; but after a total silence from March to May, Mr. Coke surprises the public with the following advertisement, which, to use a word he seems very fond of, he “ thinks it incumbent upon him to lay “ before the public,” which made its first appearance in the Norwich papers of Saturday, May 2,

Norfolk Chronicle and Norwich Mercury,
May 2, 1778.

“ To the PUBLIC.

“ HAVING waited to see the utmost
“ Efforts of Mr. Gardiner’s Malice, and
“ Abilities for Abuse; at length I think it
“ incumbent on me to assure the Public,
“ that all his *Affertions* of Sir Harbord
“ Harbord’s having done him Disservice
“ with me, are absolutely FALSE—and
“ that all the Discountenance I shew’d
“ him during his Continuance in my Ser-
“ vice, and my final Dismission of him
“ from that Service, arose entirely with-
“ out the Advice, Suggestion, or even Know-
“ ledge of Sir Harbord Harbord, or any
“ other of the Gentlemen to whom it is im-
“ puted in his Pamphlet.—That his Con-
“ duct whilst in my Service, being dis-
“ approved by me; I therefore exercised
“ that Right, which I apprehend every
“ Gentleman has, and dismissed him with
“ a Gratuity of Two Hundred Pounds---
“ which he has not taken the least Notice
“ of in his Publication. The public Buf-
“ tle he made at Norwich in Relation to
“ Sir Harbord Harbord, after the *Affu-*
“ rances

“ rances I had given, that Sir Harbord
 “ Harbord had never done him *any Dis-*
 “ *service with me*, I considered as imply-
 “ ing his Disbelief of my Assurances, and
 “ consequently as such an affront to my-
 “ self, that I thought it necessary to for-
 “ bid him my House. Some Time after-
 “ wards finding he did not think the Gra-
 “ tuity adequate to his Services, I pro-
 “ posed to refer the Point to Arbitration,
 “ which he at first refused, though I am
 “ informed he has since inclined to —
 “ But as he has now by his CALUMNIES
 “ and FALSEHOODS forfeited every Claim
 “ to my Favor, I shall leave him to try
 “ what the Law will further give him.

THOMAS WILLIAM COKE.”

Holkham, April 26, 1778.

It is to be remarked here that Mr. Gay
 went from a commission at Burnham to
 Holkham, on Friday, April 24, two days
 before the *date* of this advertisement, pre-
 tending great and urgent business with
 Mr. Coke: probably a cabinet council
 was summoned for the Saturday and Sun-
 day, to draw up and issue out the above
 proclamation from the court at Holkham.
 This

This urgent business being thus happily finished, Mr. Privy-Councillor set off with his pretious lading for the press at Norwich. Before I enter upon the particulars of this extraordinary publication I cannot avoid observing that it seems more calculated to exculpate Sir Harbord than to vindicate Mr. Coke: Mr. Coke seems to *labour* that point; whereas a vindication of his *own* character seemed more immediately necessary for his honor in an *affair of honor* as this is between gentleman and gentleman: hence it is easy to guess from what manufactory this curious composition originated, and the more so, as it is neither sense, grammar, nor English; and I desire to be understood in every observation I make upon it, that I consider it not as drawn up by Mr. Coke, but perhaps *too hastily* signed by him. I consider it as the *minister's* speech and not the *king's*.

I was extremely ill of the gout when this unexpected *Jeu d' Esprit* of Mr. Coke's came out: I read it on the Sunday May 3. I had then the gout in both hands, both elbows, and both feet: was in great extremity of pain, and little able to collect

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my thoughts together for an immediate answer which was required, and which to be in time was of course to be sent off by the post for Norwich the day following; however whether owing to a just indignation at such base and unworthy treatment; a natural resentment against a bare-faced falsehood imposed upon the publick; or spirits enflamed by ill usage that rose superior to the infirmities of illness; to whatever cause it was owing I will not pretend to say, but on the Monday May 4, I found myself capable by the assistance of a friend to transmit an answer to the press at Norwich. This fresh insult on the part of Mr. Coke, who has hitherto made no atonement for his past injurious conduct, had roused me I confess to some degree of warmth, and which in a state of health might not have been satisfied to have waited a week for redress from a news-paper.

The answer sent to Norwich, as dictated by me to my friend was to the following purport.

“ To

“ To the PUBLICK,

“ LABOURING under a very severe attack of the gout, I must entreat the public to suspend their opinion of the advertisement in last Saturday's Norwich papers, subscribed Thomas William Coke; to which a full answer shall be given, as soon as I am in health.

“ I hereby call upon Mr. Thomas William Coke, to point out any one single calumny or falshood in my letter to Sir Harbord Harbord, throughout.

“ His declarations relative to Sir Harbord, are no more than Sir Harbord's own declarations in his letter to me; which were not the subject of the contest at the assizes:—It was the other part of Sir Harbord's letter to me that called for an explanation from him, and for which I called him *out*; and whether I believed Mr. Coke or him, in their assertions, was out of the question.—I wanted an explanation to a passage in his letter to me, which I had a right to demand as a gentleman, and *still have*.

“ The 200l. draft advanced by Mr.
 “ Coke, and the 100l. draft advanced by
 “ me, were not omitted in my letter to
 “ Sir Harbord, but suppressed: They
 “ were printed by themselves in a post-
 “ script to the letter, but were not pub-
 “ lished, on account of the arbitration
 “ proposed on the part of Mr. Coke. I
 “ was not willing (unless obliged) to tell
 “ the world, that Holkham house was
 “ without the paltry sum of 100l. to pay
 “ labourers, and to carry on Family Ex-
 “ pences.—Mr. Coke has now obliged me
 “ to do it.

“ As to forfeiting his *favour*, which he
 “ seems to set so high a value upon, I *de-*
 “ *spise* his favour. — The favour and
 “ friendship of any person, in the line of
 “ conduct pursued by Mr. Thomas Wil-
 “ liam Coke, can do honour to no man.
 “ —I demand *justice*, and not favour.

“ CALUMNIES and FALSHOODS I
 “ detest as much as Mr. Thomas William
 “ Coke, and I dare him to the proof: In
 “ the mean time, and 'till my health re-
 “ turns, I thus publicly deny the truth
 “ of

“ of the advertisement he has put his
 “ name to, and hereby declare it to be
 “ totally and *fundamentally* false.

RICHARD GARDINER.”

Mount Amelia, May 4th, 1778.

“ P. S. Mr. Coke for the *first time* men-
 “ tions his *disapprobation* of my conduct,
 “ or did he mean to convey it in the fol-
 “ lowing expressions in his letters to me,
 “ cited in mine to Sir Harbord?

“ Oct. 6, 1776. I am ashamed to have
 “ taken no notice of your letters, where-
 “ in you have given me a very good ac-
 “ count of the farms you have seen, but
 “ the method you have taken and the
 “ plan you go upon *pleases me so much*,
 “ that your letters require no answer.”—
 “ Page 7, letter to Sir Harbord.

“ Jan. 2, 1777. I received the favour
 “ of your letter this morning—enclosed
 “ was Mr. ——’s proposal, which *gave me*
 “ *great satisfaction*. I shall be at Holk-
 “ ham at the audit, and believe me,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Very sincerely your’s,

“ THOMAS WILLIAM COKE.

“ Page 8, letter to Sir Harbord.

“ But how came Mr. Coke not to ex-
 “ prefs his *disapprobation* of my conduct
 “ in his letter of August 6, 1777, in
 “ which he *recalled his appointment of au-*
 “ *ditor*, and assigned *no other reason* for
 “ that proceeding but my *quarrel with Sir*
 “ *Harbord*? This looks a little suspicious
 “ and as if this *disapprobation* was an
 “ *after-thought*: perhaps just hatched: I
 “ fear my *little cream-coloured* magistrate
 “ is not yet recovered from the effects of
 “ his *Fakenham-fever*.

“ Mr. Thomas William Coke seems
 “ mightily pleased with the word, *service*:
 “ He repeats it three times together; ‘ Con-
 “ tinuance in my *service*—Dismission from
 “ that *service*—Conduct whilst in my *ser-*
 “ *vice*’—What has the young gentleman
 “ got, or what has been *put* into his
 “ head? I was never in any other service
 “ but that of my KING and of my
 “ COUNTRY: I would have Mr. Tho-
 “ mas William Coke to know, that I
 “ would not have staid two days, no not
 “ two hours, in the house at any time
 “ with him, had he attempted to treat me
 “ as a *servant*: I assisted him as his friend ;
 “ his

“ his father’s known friend; and as a gentleman who wished him well: but as to
 “ a *servant* to Mr. Thomas William Coke,
 “ I spurn at the base idea!

“ R. G.”

This general answer was sent by the post on Monday, May 4th, to Norwich, to be inserted in the Norwich papers the Saturday following, May 9, on which day, instead of seeing it in the papers, I received a letter informing me that the printers had been so intimidated by the known agent of Sir Harbord and Mr. Coke with threats of prosecution, that they dare not insert my answer in the Norwich papers: This surprized me much, and the more so, as nothing could be more virulent or libellous, or more open to prosecution than Mr. Coke’s advertisement against me; and this virulent and libellous advertisement of Mr. Coke’s, charging me with “ calumnies, falsehoods, malice, &c. &c.” was again repeated in the very papers into which they refused to admit my answer. Finding therefore the avenues to the press at Norwich stopped, I was obliged to have recourse to
 the

the measure of an hand-bill, or to submit to the false assertions in Mr. Coke's advertisement; and to suffer them to gain a degree of credit for want of contradiction on my part: This no man of real honor and who puts a value upon his character ever did or ever will submit to; for whenever no answer is given to a publick accusation, the publick naturally concludes, it is, because no answer *can* be given. The facts alledged are true, and cannot be contradicted: and this accounts for the silence of Sir Harbord; for otherwise would he sit down contented and quiet, and not answer a letter particularly directed to him, which calls his honor, his friendship, nay his personal courage in question? charges him directly with communicating to a third person a *hint*, which amongst men of *real* honor is ever kept with *inviolable* secrecy: with many other particulars which as Lord Bacon says, must "come home to the bosom" of Sir Harbord? particulars, not to be frittered away as in a house he frequently visits, or to be got rid of by calling for the *book of numbers*, and putting the *previous question*? Would Sir Harbord tamely bear all this, were he not conscious

scious of the irresistible power of truth, and that he is brought to a test which he cannot answer? His pride would recoil could he but say with the Poet,

“ Let the galled jade go winch;
“ *My withers are unwrung.*”—

But here the grievance lies: conscience flies in his face: he cannot deny the charge, and therefore declines the combat: for as Lord *Mansfield* observes, “there is no making bricks without straw, there is no contradicting facts that are true.”

The hand-bill contained the chief of my answer sent to the Norwich papers, with the following introduction:

“ *Mount Amelia, May 10th, 1778.*

“ To the PUBLICK.

“ WHEREAS an Advertisement signed
“ THOMAS WILLIAM COKE, appeared
“ in the Norwich Papers of Saturday,
“ May 2d. And whereas an Answer,
“ contradicting the same, was sent on
“ Monday, May 4th, to the Norwich Pa-
“ pers, against the Saturday following,
C “ May

“ May 9th, and was refused Admittance,
 “ the Printers being * threatened with
 “ Prosecution

* The printers thought proper to contradict this in general Terms on Saturday, May 23 ; but Mr. Crouse being particularly applied to by Major Gardiner by letter, on the Saturday after, May 30, published the following advertisement in the Norfolk Chronicle :

(C O P Y)

To the P U B L I C.

HAVING received the following letter from Richard Gardiner, Esq. viz.

“ *Mount Amelia, May 26, 1778.*

“ S I R,

“ Did you, or did you not, refuse to insert my Answer to
 “ Mr. Coke’s Advertisement in the Norfolk Chronicle ?

“ Did you, or did you not, declare to the Person who brought
 “ you my Answer, that your refusal to insert it in your Paper
 “ was owing to a Conversation that passed between you and Mr.
 “ Alderman Gay, wherein the Name of Sir Harbord Harbord
 “ was mentioned, as you understood from that Conversation that
 “ a Prosecution was intended against you and Mr. Chase ?

“ I hereby call upon you, Mr. Crouse, for an Answer to the
 “ above Queries in your next Saturday’s Paper, as you value
 “ your Character of an honest Man, and an impartial Printer
 “ for the Public.”

To the above Queries, being thus called upon, I am obliged to answer in the Affirmative, and that my Advertisement in the Norfolk Chronicle of last Saturday, respected Mr. Coke alone.

At

“ Prosecution by the *known Agent* of Sir
 “ Harbord Harbord and Mr. Coke: Ma-
 “ jor Gardiner finds himself obliged to
 “ publish his Answer in a Hand-Bill.

“ The Major submits to the Impartiali-
 “ ty of the Gentlemen of Norfolk, whe-
 “ ther any Thing can more strongly mark
 “ the Badness of a Cause, than to appeal
 “ to the Public by Advertisement in a
 “ News-Paper, and then to shut the Press
 “ against an Answer?

“ This is the first Instance ever known
 “ in Norfolk of an Attempt to stop the
 “ LIBERTY of the PRESS; and it is to
 “ be hoped the Freeholders of the Coun-
 “ ty, and the Citizens of Norwich will
 “ remember

At the same Time I take this Opportunity of declaring, that although I shall at all Times endeavour from Principle to avoid inserting any Paragraph which shall give Individuals Cause of Complaint against me as a Printer, and from Interest be cautious of publishing any Thing offensive to Law and good Government, yet shall ever pay a strict Attention to Impartiality upon any Subject of private Dispute or Controversy, and to that LIBERTY of the PRESS which supports, and is supported by the Constitution of this Country.

JOHN CROUSE,

Norwich, May 28, 1778.

“remember it at the next general Election.”

These circumstances I thought proper to recapitulate, and to premise, before I entered upon a particular answer to the several invidious and false assertions contained in Mr. Coke’s advertisement: I shall now proceed to analyse the advertisement.

“Having waited to see the *utmost* efforts of Mr. Gardiner’s malice and abilities for abuse:” With what propriety or truth can Mr. Coke say this, when Mr. Gardiner had scarcely yet *began* with him? In his letter to Sir Harbord is there one malicious passage that applies to Mr. Coke? His name is never mentioned but where the thread of the narrative, or the course of the argument required it: If Mr. Coke’s own letters, or Mr. Gardiner’s answers to them, on his own proceedings and conduct towards the Major, as faithfully delineated in the letter to Sir Harbord, conveyed any indirect censure or reflection upon Mr. Coke, he is to thank himself for it; Mr. Gardiner is not to blame;

blame: 'tis Mr. Coke that makes the satire, and if he takes shame to himself, as many people seem to think he ought, Major Gardiner has no concern in it: his letter to Sir Harbord was entirely meant as a vindication of his *own* conduct after the very gross, wanton, and unprecedented affront of being forbid the house at Holkham, which called aloud for public explanation, and not as any deliberate invective against Mr. Coke: I call it wanton, because I had every where and in all companies declared both at and after the assizes, that I would never go there again; and Mr. Coke might have contented himself in ordering his servants not to admit me had I attempted it; which order I since understand he had given to them; but as I afforded him no opportunity to affront me that way, by having no intention or inclination to make him any more visits, either in his private hours of contemplation, or at his public levees of ostentation in the drawing-room, he then determined to affront me by letter. Now where is the charge of malice to be fixed? on *me*, or on Mr. *Coke*? Could any Thing breath a greater spirit of malice, rancour, or venom, than this uncommonly violent procedure

procedure of Mr. Coke's? To forbid a man his house by *letter*, because he would not give his servants an opportunity to refuse him at the *door*? Mr. Coke, after your behaviour to me, you must never complain of *malice*: If I have those abilities for abuse which you compliment me with the possession of, I have full scope to indulge them in when I reflect minutely on every part of your inconsistent conduct, your unfriendly, and unprovoked ill treatment to a man, whose only fault was having your interest too much at heart; and who wished to see you profit from that experience of life which he had, and you seemed so much to want: who was always ready to retire from his department of auditor whenever you wished it; but in a manner *honourable* to yourself and him; and whose only request, and only favor he asked from you, was, that "you would leave him where you found him."* 'Tis true I was far from being insensible of the great and irretrievable injury you had done me by appointing me to be auditor of your
of

* Letter to Sir Harbord Harbord, page 55, 56, 57.

your estates, and retracting from it so soon afterwards without any reason given: by taking me into your confidence, making the first overtures thereto yourself,* and so soon withdrawing it and placing it on unworthy objects: I was sensible of this injury and sensibly hurt, it being a thing unheard of; for after such an appointment, and such overtures of confidence and friendship, you ought not to have listened to any man who attempted to instill into you prejudices against me, and insinuations to my disadvantage; but to have persevered in your appointment, and to have formed your own opinion of my conduct in it from my actions and manner of executing the trust you had reposed in me, after the experience of a few years: otherwise you was condemning me without an opportunity of trial, and bringing a reflection upon yourself by receding from a solemn act and deed under your hand and seal, and undoing one month what you had done in another. You could not but be sensible how
you

* "Hope if any Thing should rise at any Time in Norfolk, "you will be so kind as to inform me."—Mr. Coke's letter, "May 29, 1776; letter to Sir H. page 14.

you must hurt me in the eye of the world by this irresolute conduct, and how you must expose me to the insult of all your tenants: and had I deserved this from you, Mr. Coke, in any shape? You cannot say, I had: The same as to your confidence and friendship: You received me into your confidence as your father's known friend: He had tried me for years, and consulted me on all occasions where his interest was concerned: I never deceived him, but always gave him a true representation of men and things: He found I did, and therefore continued his friendship to me to his dying day: Had you given me a trial, you would have found the same; and let me tell you, Sir, it was no disadvantageous acquisition to you, totally unexperienced as you were in the county, that there was a friend of your father's still living, who knew his sentiments of most of the gentlemen in the county, those whom he considered as his particular friends and the most attached to his personal interest: and also a friend of your father's, who had lived up and been co-temporary with most of the present gentlemen, and who was no stranger to their *real* characters
and

and their respective weight and influence in the county: but this service, perhaps in the opinion of many not an unimportant one, you never gave me an opportunity of rendering to you, (with many others which might have been exceedingly useful) but almost immediately after your declared overtures of friendship to me, unaccountably and to the surprise and concern of every body, threw yourself into the arms of *Shylocks*, and other unpopular and obnoxious individuals, who think of nothing so much as serving their own interest, and nothing so little as serving of your's. This is seen by all the world at present, and spoke of in every company; and in the process of a few years will be a truth that will make it's way to your knowledge.

But to return to the advertisement: It has been already remarked, that it tends to the justification of Sir Harbord more than Mr. Coke, and therefore it may easily be conjectured by what hands it was fabricated.

D

“ I think

“ I think it incumbent on me to assure
 “ the public, that all his assertions of
 “ Sir Harbord Harbord’s having done
 “ him disservice with me are absolute-
 “ ly false.” My charge and accusation
 against Sir Harbord rests solely on his
own letter to me: the publick are now in
 possession of it, and will form their opi-
 nion of Sir Harbord’s conduct totally in-
 dependent of any assertions either of mine
 or Mr. Coke’s.—If Sir Harbord and Mr.
 Coke, for argument sake, should agree to
 join in affirming the same thing, who is
 to contradict them? But the impartial and
 penetrating publick will look to *facts* and
 not to *declarations*, to prior and to subse-
 quent facts: I should have acquitted Sir
 Harbord, without Mr. Coke’s interposi-
 tion, upon *his own* declaration in his letter
 to me, had he finished with it: ’twas his
 unfortunate * B U T, and the passage that
 followed it, that opened my eyes and cal-
 led for the resentment I expressed at the
 affizes: Mr. Coke knows this very well,
 notwithstanding his assertion in this ad-
 vertisement; and this is one of the pas-
 sages

* “ BUT, &c.” page 30, letter to Sir Harbord.

fages I alluded to when I said that Mr. Coke was conscious of the untruth of what he was setting his hand to. He knows, nay indeed it is told him in my letter to Sir Harbord, that I called upon Sir Harbord for an explanation to *that passage*, and not for his having said any thing that might have been to my *diservice with Mr. Coke*. I wanted to know of him who the gentlemen were, whom he mentions in his letter though not by name, who had taken unwarrantable liberties with Mr. Coke's character and mine: there was the whole history of the intended altercation between Sir Harbord and me, and Mr. Coke knew this very well to be a fact, when he signed his advertisement.

Mr. Coke having thus laboured to acquit Sir Harbord, which takes up half the advertisement, proceeds as follows:

“ That his conduct whilst in my *service* “ being *disapproved* by me;” This I deny flatly, and Mr. Coke knows it is not true: he never hinted the least disapprobation on any occasion whatever; on the contra-

ry spoke greatly to my advantage, and of the services I had done him: indeed he could do no otherwise, for I never did any thing without his knowledge.* What I complained of and took ill of him, was an apparent coolness and shyness, that I thought rather particular to a man he had adopted as his particular friend; but that did not affect me at times, as I observed he was a man of that cast and turn of mind, and was often as unaccountably on the reserve to others.

His

* When it was objected to Mr. Coke by some (perhaps *interested*) people to my prejudice that "I did not understand land," he replied, "If Major Gardiner does not understand land *himself*, he knows where to get information from those who do."

By the bye this boasted knowledge of land is not so very mysterious: it is a knowledge easily attained by any gentleman who will attend to it: Who knew it better than the late *Charles Morley*, Esq. of Basham? whereas many *professed* land-stewards, who during their lives, were held in much repute (merely from report and prejudice) for their knowledge in land, and advice in landed property, upon their decease and examination into their books and method of conducting estates, were found to have known nothing at all of the matter: and I believe it would not be difficult to point out an *old woman* or two of the kind, *now living*, in this county.

His letters referred to before plainly prove that so far from his being dissatisfied with my conduct that he highly approved it. As to the word *service*, it was unbecoming a gentleman to make use of it, but I wonder at nothing when I consider the capacity and vulgar, low-lived sentiments of his privy-councillors, *Shylock the Jew*, and *Legacy the Exciseman*.

“ I therefore exercised that right which
 “ I apprehend every gentleman has, and
 “ *dismissed him with a gratuity of two hun-*
 “ *dred pounds.*” This I do also most flatly deny, and Mr. Coke knows it is not true. This is another of those passages of the falsehood of which I have said he was conscious when he put his name to the advertisement, and I will prove it from himself as before asserted.

He gave me a draft for 200l. which I did not see or know the contents of, or the use for which it was designed, in a dark passage in the house on June 24th, and I accordingly placed it to account. I attended the audit July 8 and 9, was three days at Holkham and he never said
 a word

a word about any dismissal or intended dismissal, or asked for my account for business done, or expences in viewing and looking over the farms, &c. &c. or in short said any thing about it: and his letter of August 6th, after my affair with his friend Sir Harbord, expressly “ demands back his appointment of auditor “ general:” of course it is plain beyond the power of contradiction, that he considered me himself as auditor of his estates to *that day*, August 6; and of course that I was not *dismissed* (to make use of his *genteel* expression) on June 24, when he gave the draft, nor till that identical Day, August 6. Now this is proved to be a fact from *himself* and the words of his *own* letter: I am only amazed how Mr. Coke, conscious of these truths, could be prevailed upon to set his name to such a collection of falsehoods as are crowded together in this extraordinary advertisement, and seem to *jostle* one another for want of room.

I come now to the word *gratuity*, which from the general construction I find that is put upon it, I must take the liberty to explain a little: It might, not improbably,
be

be inserted on purpose to mislead: It is not unlike the quirks of *Shylock* and the *Exciseman*, who never stick at a little prevarication if it will serve the purpose.

It is generally understood I find, by the word *gratuity*, that Mr. Coke had called for my account, had discharged it, and all contingent expences, and after a genteel apology for his not continuing me any longer in the department of auditor to his estates, had made me a present of a draft of 200l. This story is so much propagated and so currently believed, that I know I shall surprize the world, when I tell them that there is not a single word of truth in this whole story; and that I never received one shilling from Mr. Coke at any time whatever in money or bill, the 200l. draft excepted, which is explained above.

Mr. Coke, who seems never to lose sight of Sir Harbord, and whose amiable disposition seems to have engrossed his attention entirely, and to have swallowed up all his ideas, now *tries back*, (you are a *foxhunter*, Mr. Coke;) and reverts again to Sir Harbord.

“ The

“ The publick bustle he made at Nor-
 “ wich in relation to Sir Harbord Har-
 “ bord, after the assurances I had given
 “ that Sir Harbord Harbord had never
 “ done him any disservice with me, I
 “ considered as implying his disbelief
 “ of my assurances.” How can you ven-
 ture to assert this, Mr. Coke, when I
 told you at the time you was giving those
 assurances, “ that it was Sir Harbord’s
 “ *letter*” I referred to: you know and are
 conscious I told you so at the time at
 Holkham, and never took your assurances
 at all into consideration, it being a differ-
 ent subject I was going upon with Sir
 Harbord as explained before.

“ The publick bustle I made at Nor-
 “ wich.” Do you really assert this as a
 fact, Mr. Coke? Did I make any bustle
 or make that bustle publick, or Sir Har-
 bord think you? Now, Sir, I ask you
 that question as a man of honor? It is
 well known I privately called Sir Har-
 bord out: it is well known he told it to
 another: and it is as well known that you
 and Mr. Durrant, from the information
 given by Sir Harbord to his friend, fol-
 lowed.

lowed me into private company long after I had left the assembly to *require security of the peace*. Now pray, Sir, who made all this bustle, but Sir Harbord, you, and Mr. Durrant? No body knew any thing of the matter from me: Let those who made the bustle answer for it and stand charged with it:

“ Shake not your goary G--nt--n locks
“ at me,

“ You cannot say I did it.”—

This public bustle “ I considered as im-
“ plying his disbelief of my assurances, and
“ consequently as such an affront to my-
“ self that I thought it necessary to forbid
“ him my house.” Did you really, Sir? Why it was a heinous provocation I must confess, had it been true: but unfortunately as appears above, it was not the case. Now I should rather have enquired once more into that particular, had I been you, before I would have passed so gross an affront upon any body, but especially upon a person you had professed so high an opinion of and so great a regard for. Let me tell you freely, Mr. Coke, this affair has done you no honor; and I think I do not say too much, when I assert that in
E the

the eye of the publick it has reflected more disgrace upon you than me, and which your friend Sir Harbord with all his amazing popularity will not be able to wipe off. Is Sir Harbord's garment too sacred to be touched, even the hem of it, without incurring your august displeasure? or will you ridiculously forbid your best friends the house, as you have done me, because they will not *believe your assurances* of Sir Harbord, or swallow all the high-flown conceits you may entertain of his amiable qualities, his friendship, his worth, his œconomy, and his understanding? If you mean to do this, you may as well shut up your doors at once, for upon those terms depend upon it there will be little craving for admittance at Holkham.

But for argument sake, suppose I had disbelieved your assurances and in consequence had called Sir Harbord to account? Was that offence so very great as to induce a man of sense to quarrel with his friend, and to carry it to such uncommon lengths as to forbid him his house? You might with propriety have “expof-
tulated

"tulated with me on such an occasion:
 "You might have told me, that you took
 "it ill, and that you could not avoid re-
 "senting it, as my conduct to Sir Har-
 "bord wore the appearance of an indi-
 "rect affront to you, and an impeachment
 "of your veracity;" but further than this
 you was not warranted to go without an
 absolute violation of that friendship you
 avowed for me, and without an open
 breach of good manners, good breeding,
 and the common address and behaviour
 between one gentleman and another; all
 which were sacrificed to this outrageous
 and precipitate attack upon me, (with-
 out any conference on the subject) that in
 the end recoiled back upon yourself a-
 lone, and only exposed you to a busy,
 talking world, that failed not to make
 very free remarks, and to form "very
 "severe and unfair" conclusions, as Sir
 Harbord says, upon your turn of mind
 and character; and also to open their
 eyes as to the representative they had *so*
*late*ly chosen for the county of Norfolk.

"Some time afterwards finding he did
 "not think the *gratuity* adequate to his
 "services, I proposed to refer the point

“ to arbitration, which he at first refused,
 “ though I am *informed* he has *since in-*
clined to.”—I refused the arbitration
 chiefly because it was proposed by Mr.
 Gay: Mr. Coke, though he talks of dis-
 mission, had never all this time asked me
 for my account, not even after he had
 recalled his appointment on August 6,
 and he left the country without doing it.
 In November I sent up a general account
 to him, which reduced into particulars
 would have amounted to a much more
 considerable sum than was demanded:
 Mr. Coke never returns me any answer,
 or makes any objections, and finding my-
 self not likely to hear any thing of my
 account, I drew upon him at the audit
 for the balance: this produced the pro-
 posal of the arbitration, and the answer
 to Mr. Gay (*enclosed to Mr. Coke*) was as
 follows;

“ *Mount Amelia, Jan. 22, 1778.*

“ S I R,

“ In answer to yours from Holkham
 “ this morning, I have to observe to you,
 “ that I never understood that the sum
 “ presented

“ presented by Mr. Coke in a draft,
 “ which I did not see the contents of at
 “ the time, was intended as an equivalent
 “ for the services I had done, and was
 “ doing for him; I had advanced at
 “ Holkham upon an emergency, in the
 “ absence of Mr. Coke, and in quality of
 “ his auditor, 100l. for his use at one
 “ time; and I thought this 200l. draft,
 “ when I came to look at it, which could
 “ never be supposed to be an equivalent
 “ for my services, and contingent expences,
 “ for a *twelve-month*, was advanced by Mr.
 “ Coke, to carry on the plan I was put-
 “ ting into execution for the improve-
 “ ment of his estate; and I according-
 “ ly placed it *to account*. It has been al-
 “ lowed by every gentleman I have con-
 “ versed with, to be *no equivalent*, and
 “ Mr. Coke ought to have been more *ex-*
 “ *plicit* when he advanced the 200l. and
 “ then he would have had my answer
 “ immediately. I wrote to him on my
 “ return home from Holkham, but could
 “ not obtain any explanation from him.

“ I have not made my present demand
 “ without having the best advice; and
 “ when

“ when Mr. Coke discharges it, it is the
 “ opinion of all *my* friends, and many of
 “ *his*, that it is far, very far, from being
 “ any recompence for the ill usage I have
 “ received after the services I have done.

“ I have been the person to open his
 “ eyes in regard to the value, and im-
 “ provement of his estate, for others to
 “ reap the benefit of: You yourself ac-
 “ knowledged to me *your own* inability
 “ to do it; and I will venture to say, that
 “ others now employed are not equal to
 “ it; had they had Mr. Coke’s interest at
 “ heart as sincerely as I had, both out of
 “ real regard to *himself*, and friendship to
 “ his *deceased father*, they had never pro-
 “ ceeded as they have done: I studied
 “ Mr. Coke’s happiness; it was upper-
 “ most in my thoughts; and had my plan
 “ been carried into execution in the man-
 “ ner I had begun, and which would
 “ have been compleated in *three years*, I
 “ have not the least doubt but that he
 “ would have been extremely pleased,
 “ and thought he could not have reward-
 “ ed me too much; he himself would
 “ have been amply repaid for any ac-
 “ knowledgment

“ knowledgment he had made to me, and
 “ kept a true friend into the bargain.

“ You may please to present my com-
 “ pliments to Mr. Coke, and to tell him,
 “ that had I not thought I should have
 “ continued his auditor *for life*, or at least
 “ for *some time*, I never would, on *any*
 “ consideration, have engaged in so ar-
 “ duous an undertaking, and which re-
 “ quired such assiduity, application, and
 “ constant attention to carry it through to
 “ his advantage.”

“ I am, S I R,

“ Your humble Servant.

“ RICHARD GARDINER.”

I in the same letter declined the arbi-
 tration.

Now the best and fairest way of form-
 ing an opinion of Mr. Coke's *gratuity* to
 Major Gardiner, is by contrasting his be-
 haviour to the Major with that of another
 in similar circumstances.

Mr. A. Y. a gentleman educated as a
 merchant at Lynn, but who had turned
 his

his thoughts like Major Gardiner to making observations upon estates in Norfolk, has lately been employed by Lord K. to improve and conduct the management of his estates in Ireland. Lord K. allows him a THOUSAND POUNDS for the *first* year, and FIVE HUNDRED for every year he chooses to continue to act for his Lordship afterwards; also the usual *douceurs* attending on such an employ, and permission "to purchase a *cottage* and a "*few acres of land*" occasionally; and now and then, but sparingly, to cut up a goose with *golden eggs*.

Major Gardiner has been employed in like manner by Mr. Coke, to audit and improve his estate in Norfolk; an estate much superior in value and extent to that of Lord K. in Ireland. Major Gardiner acts in that capacity for a year; forms plans to gain Mr. Coke a compleat knowledge of the value of his estate; looks over the several farms; makes calculations; prepares proper books at a great expence for auditing the estate; prints a great number of receipts and forms for passing the tenants bills; takes severe
journies

journies during the winter months to look over and view the several farms and buildings; remarks the improvements that may be made; the condition the farms are in; how miserably underlett; how the buildings are let down; discovers the tenures upon *article*; particularly at Duntton, where neither Mr. Coke or hardly any body else knew, that valuable farm was held by an *article only*, and not upon a lease, and that article not signed by Lady Leicester; a farm of upwards of 1700 acres of land, worth 12 and 15s. per acre, and let at 68ol. a year for 21 years: is taken up constantly without intermission either in viewing farms abroad, or entering his observations and valuations at home in his books; entertains tenants that come upon business to make proposals or applications; advances money for the use of the house at Holkham; his servants and horses ever engaged on Mr. Coke's business; his house always open to all persons on any affairs belonging to the estate; attends meetings at a distance; and in short gives up his whole time for twelve months to serve Mr. Coke in his estates: In return for which, after an a-

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bundance

bundance of ill usage, in downright contradiction to the strongest professions of friendship voluntary and unsolicited, Mr. Coke one day stops the Major in a passage, puts a draft of 200l. into his hand, saying, "that he imagined the Major must "have been at great expences on his account," (which was true enough) and without saying any thing more, but repeating his directions to appoint a meeting at Norwich in the assize week relative to the proprietors of Bintry,* leaves the Major in the dark passage, not knowing what the amount of the draft was, nor the occasion of it's being given, literally leaving him in the *dark* altogether. This passed June 24, 1777. On February 16, 1778, Mr. Gay for the first time explains, the intention of Mr. Coke to have been, "a *liberal* reward for the Major's services," or to make use of Mr. Coke's more *polite* expressions, as copied by Gay to the Major, "that his intention "was to *pay* the Major liberally, and that "he thought he had done *so*, when he "made him a present of *two* hundred "pounds." Here's *liberality* indeed with a vengeance!

* See Major Gardiner's letter to Sir Harbord, page 54.

a vengeance! Mr. Coke *liberally* presents to his *friend* Major Gardiner two hundred pounds, for what Lord K. allows a *thousand* to Mr. A. Y. a *stranger*: and Mr. Y's allowance is *net salary*, clear of all expences, while Mr. Coke's "*very liberal*" donation to the Major does not defray his *expences*.

I must remark here that Major Gardiner had just left Mr. Coke (June 24th) in company with Mr. Chad, when he in a few minutes after followed him and overtook him in the passage with the draft of the 200l. which I have been speaking of.

As to the arbitration which Mr. Coke says, "*I have since inclined to*" I can only say, that at the recommendation of one of the first men in this county I accepted it about the time of Lynn mart, and offered to leave it entirely to the gentleman named by Mr. Coke as his arbitrator, and without naming any one on my part: but he declining to act alone, after a number of letters on one side and the other, conferences by intermediate friends with Mr. Coke availing nothing, the affair of arbitration dropped. Mr. Coke

seems by his advertisement to look upon his proposal of arbitration as a *favor*, "as he has forfeited every claim to my *favor*, I shall leave him to try what the *law* will further give him." I certainly did not consider it as a *favor*, because I *refused* it: Who would leave to arbitration an account to which no objection had been made? I claim the balance due to me as my undoubted right, notwithstanding the terrors of the law held out to me by Mr. Coke: I claim it as my right and I claim it as a gentleman. 'Tis true the *law*, which Mr. Coke threatens me with, is a *bug-bear*; and I wish he does not find it so himself. He seems to be mightily attached to the gentlemen of the law at present: they are agreeable company without doubt, but no affront to that respectable body, they are in some degree expensive company: not perhaps upon a par with pantheon-builders, or pinery-contractors, or plate-hammerers; but parchment, and wax, and tape, do sometimes "frighten" a great estate, as Shakespeare says, "from its propriety."

As to the last article of Mr. Coke's advertisement, charging me with "calum-
" nies

“ nies and falsehoods,” that being unsupported with any one proof, must fall to the ground of course. General charges, unauthenticated by facts, avail nothing in argument, and are never regarded.

I have now only one thing more to mention, and which, to use Mr. Coke's own words, “ he has not taken the least “ notice of in his advertisement :” I mean the hundred pounds I advanced for his use ; the particulars of which are as follows : One morning calling at the house, the steward told me he did not know what to do for money ; Mr. Coke absent ; no money to be got at the compting-house, &c. &c. I told him till Mr. Coke could be acquainted with it, I would as *his auditor* give him drafts for 100l. which I accordingly did, in four drafts for 25l. each. This passed October 29, 1776 ; next day, on the 30th, I acquainted Mr. Coke with it by letter to London. Mr. Coke came down to Holkham in November, and told me, he was much obliged to me for the 100l. I had advanced in his absence, and he would give me a draft for it in return before he went away : this
in

in his hurry, or probably it might slip his memory, he omitted to do; and I heard no more of it till the audit in January; however as we were apparently then upon the best terms, I thought nothing about it.

Happy had it been perhaps for both of us, Mr. Coke, that we had continued on those terms. You talk of your *favor* that I have forfeited; be not surprized or angry, Sir, when I tell you, that it never could have been in your power to have been that friend to me that I could have been to you. Though I suffer a great deal, you will suffer more in this preposterous quarrel: I could have given you intelligence that you cannot come at without me. Your *carpenter* is despised and laughed at by the GREAT CORMORANT that has devoured your estate. He is much too shrewd and cunning indeed for *all* your present co-adjutors. They are not a match for him. He knows and plays upon the shallowness of their capacity from your *primum mobile* at London, to your block-splitter and *bark-feller* in the country: the latter he holds cheap indeed. He knows he is *Derbyshire*; and
a stranger

a stranger to the transactions of this country for 20 or 30 years back; but he knows also that this is not the case with me: I have been upon the spot during most of that period, and at no great distance from the scene of action at *****-Hall, and also not a little versed in the history of the times. Old *Æthiops* is not equal to combat this dragon. He indeed has done Sir Harbord's *mauritanian* work tolerably well these twenty years, and he is now beginning to do your's; but take him from *mole-digging* to works of penetration and judgment, and he displays the figure of an *owl in the sun*. These observations, Sir, I recommend to you to treasure up in your memory: believe me you will find them true hereafter.

Having now analysed this extraordinary advertisement, which I by no means impute to you, Mr. Coke, for you could never have put together a piece of writing so reprehensible in every part; and having given a detail of facts as they really passed, I shall submit to the world and to your own breast to make the application: I now take my leave of you,
Sir,

Sir, and notwithstanding all hostilities that have been carried on between us, and which you have drawn upon yourself either with or without the advice of others, I shall conclude this letter with a sincere wish, that you may never feel that anxiety, which you have to so great a degree and for such a length of time, thrown upon the mind of,

S I R,

Your most obedient Servant,

RICHARD GARDINER.

Mount Amelia, June

4, 1778.

THOMAS WM. COKE, Esq.



